

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9 JUL 1948

GENERAL

1. UK pressing Abdullah to block resumption of fighting--US Ambassador Douglas reports from London that the UK is putting strong pressure on King Abdullah of Transjordan, whom the British regard as the "only Arab leader capable of retrieving the situation" in Palestine. Abdullah is being urged to: (a) avoid being drawn into renewed war against Israel; and (b) seek a new meeting of the Arab League Political Committee to consider compliance with the Security Council's appeal for extension of the Palestine truce. Foreign Office spokesmen told Douglas that British representations regarding Transjordan's weak supply position had already "seriously frightened" Abdullah but stated that Abdullah had been unable to act in time to prevent Arab League rejection of Count Bernadotte's truce extension appeal. Douglas adds that the British stress the point that although the Arab League has rejected Count Bernadotte's proposal, the League has not yet considered the Security Council's resolution urging extension of the truce.
2. Recommended change in US policy on Danube conference--US Charge Reams in Belgrade reports that the new situation in Yugoslavia would seem to alter western strategy concerning the forthcoming Danubian conference. Reams has little doubt that the Soviet strategy will be to make the Yugoslavs "stand out in front" in opposing the US and UK. Reams stresses the importance to the US of preserving unimpaired the opportunity for influencing the future course of developments in Yugoslavia. He accordingly recommends that the US reconsider the previously expressed British and French preference for blocking the conference in advance through insistence upon unanimous agreement for all new decisions taken at the conference.
3. Embassy Belgrade analyzes Tito-Kremlin rift--According to US Charge Reams, the conflict between Tito and Stalin is now "irrepressible" and the USSR must inevitably exert its strength in an attempt to supplant Tito. Reams believes that: (a) Soviet

State Department review completed

Document No. 006

- 1 -

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~TOP SECRET~~

pressure will eventually drive Tito to some form of accommodation with the non-Soviet world; (b) the Yugoslavs will play a waiting game until the USSR forces the issue; and (c) Yugoslavia will in the interim avoid open quarrels with the west and will attempt to expand trade with the US and UK. Reams considers that most probably the USSR will undertake a cold war against Yugoslavia, accompanied by implied threats of direct action. Reams believes that any threat of direct action by the USSR against Yugoslavia should "call for" quick and decisive US support of Yugoslavia.

4. CFM meeting on Italian colonies held inadvisable--The Department of State has instructed US ambassadors to the UK and France to enlist the cooperation of those countries in avoiding a meeting of the Conference of Foreign Ministers on the question of the former Italian colonies. The Department believes that such a meeting is not required by the terms of the Italian peace treaty and could be of benefit only to the USSR. The Department believes, moreover, that the agenda of the meeting could not be limited to the Italian colonial question and might thus lead to a discussion of the German question "through the back door."

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~